



Presentation to the 2011 Health and Human Services
Joint Appropriation Subcommittee

MANAGEMENT AND DISABILITY TRANSITIONS PROGRAM

Economic Security Services Branch
Department of Public Health and Human Services

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OVERVIEW

"The legitimate purpose of society and its governments is not to govern people and to promote the good life for them, but to empower them to govern themselves and to provide the good life for themselves and their fellow humans." Justin Dart

With this quote, the late disability rights leader and former Commissioner of the Rehabilitation Services Administration captured the can-do spirit practiced every day by Montanans with disabilities. They want to be dynamic and integrated contributors to society, actively benefiting from and participating in mainstream Montana life. Citizens with disabilities encounter many barriers to employment, independence, and transitions including negative attitudes about what it means to have a disability, discriminatory practices that deny or limit access, inadequate economic choices, shortcomings in disability skills and resources, and other barriers to full and equitable inclusion in society. To overcome these social and economic problems, Montanans with disabilities count on Management and Disability Transitions Program and its network of non-profit disability service partners to help them learn how to do for themselves what they can do for themselves. The transition from dependence to independence is a long term investment that strengthens Montana's diverse communities, not merely the individual served.

SUMMARY OF MAJOR FUNCTIONS

Management and Disability Transitions Program promotes successful employment, independence, and transitions by Montanans with disabilities through the following service efforts listed below:

Employment

Getting and keeping a job makes it possible for anyone to be a responsible member of society. For Montanans with disabilities, employment begins with Management and Disability Transitions Program. Last year 8,824 people received employment services from Management and Disability Transitions Program. Here are our employment programs:

- Vocational Rehabilitation Services
- Blind and Low Vision Services
- Extended Employment Services

Independence

Self-determination hinges on knowing how to fend for oneself and on continued supports and opportunities. Management and Disability Transitions Program offers multiple programs designed to maximize independence and minimize dependence. Over 15,000 people received independence-building services from Management and Disability Transitions Program last year. Here are those programs:

- Independent Living Services
- Disability Determination Services
- Montana Telecommunications Access Program
- Medicaid Infrastructure Grant
- Independent Living for the Older Blind
- Visual Services Medical
- Public Transportation Coordination

Transitions

High school students with disabilities face all the same challenges that their peers without disabilities come upon plus a whole lot more. Successful transitions from high school to work and/or post-secondary education for Montanans with disabilities require unique attention and collaborations across a wide spectrum. Management and Disability Transitions Program provides the following programs:

- Montana Youth Leadership Forum
- My Transitions
- Vocational Rehabilitation Transitions Services

Management

The Economic Security Services Branch combines the public assistance, child support, child protective services and disability services onto an organizational structure which encourages coordination of social services. In this way the overall needs of families are addressed in a unified manner.

The position of Economic Security Branch manager is included with the Management and Disability Transitions Program. This position ensures a coordinated approach across the branch to empower Montanans as they overcome the barriers of poverty, disability, and mistreatment. The Branch

Manager, working with Division staff has identified areas of common activity which are more effectively managed in one coordinated effort. These include services to infants and toddlers, access to health care, financial literacy and transitions from school to work.

HIGHLIGHTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS DURING THE 2011 BIENNIUM:

"I look forward to going to work. I have made 5 trips up north delivering batteries in the big truck. I go to Shelby, Cutbank, Havre, Malta, and Glasgow. I am also in charge of the warehouse and install batteries for customers. I also go on service calls. I now have Blue Cross and Blue Shield Insurance. I can SMILE with CONFIDENCE and am feeling very positive about everything. Working with people again has really made me feel good. I thank God for all good things that have happened to me, and it all started with vocational rehabilitation. I would like to tell everyone that is having troubles to never give up, because it will only get better if you put your mind to it and work hard. A positive attitude will make the difference." Comment from a Montanan served by Montana Vocational Rehabilitation Services in 2010.

What services has Disabilities Transitions Programs done so far?

Management and Disability Transitions Program shows below some of the ways we helped Montanans with disabilities help themselves last biennium:

- Last year 716 people with disabilities went to work and earned an average of \$11.09 per hour. Those clients will earn approximately \$11.3 million annually.
- For priority workloads in adjudicating priority claims, such as compassionate allowance claims, quick decisions military casualty and terminally ill, the Disability Determination Services' processing time remains top in the country at 87 days, with an accuracy rate over 97.5%.
- The Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services launched the Medicaid for Workers program in July 2010. Advocacy from the Medicaid Infrastructure Grant and other individuals and groups propelled the systems change, which began with the 2009 Legislature and the passage of SB 119. The program permits Montanans with disabilities who receive Medicaid services to go to work while keeping their benefits. The numbers of people signing up for Medicaid for Workers tripled expectations, thus demonstrating that people with disabilities want to work and that barriers to employment sometimes stem from the supports they require.

The following table shows, by county, the number of Montanans with disabilities served last year using the DTP programs. Note that some of the DTP programs were not able to provide county-specific information.

Table 1. Number of People Served By County

COUNTY	# OF PEOPLE SERVED	COUNTY	# OF PEOPLE SERVED	COUNTY	# OF PEOPLE SERVED
Beaverhead	154	Granite	41	Powell	144
Big Horn	211	Hill	362	Prairie	13
Blaine	118	Jefferson	215	Ravalli	1005
Broadwater	84	Judith Basin	26	Richland	146
Carbon	176	Lake	606	Roosevelt	268
Carter	15	Lewis & Clark	1454	Rosebud	146
Cascade	2400	Liberty	17	Sanders	285
Chouteau	58	Lincoln	424	Sheridan	35
Custer	275	Madison	88	Silver Bow	1701
Daniels	11	McCone	21	Stillwater	137
Dawson	205	Meagher	31	Sweet Grass	30
Deer Lodge	243	Mineral	140	Teton	105
Fallon	23	Missoula	2697	Toole	82
Fergus	178	Musselshell	104	Treasure	8
Flathead	2274	Park	264	Valley	132
Gallatin	1125	Petroleum	7	Wheatland	22
Garfield	7	Phillips	52	Wibaux	17
Glacier	572	Pondera	109	Yellowstone	3682
Golden Valley	13	Powder River	10		

The following map in Figure 1 shows the location of the Vocational Rehabilitation field offices where counselors meet with clients. Counselors also travel to other communities to meet with clients locally.

Figure 1. Vocational Rehabilitation Field Offices



What pilots or outreach projects have the Management and Disability Transitions Program begun?

Management and Disability Transitions Program continues to find new ways to deliver services to Montanans with disabilities, and has already explored and commenced on new projects to reach more people.

- The Vocational Rehabilitation Transitions Program Manager based in Missoula developed a service delivery model and instructional materials on transitions and presented them to various local, state, and national groups and produced an on-line “Transitions Kit” containing materials to help guide Vocational Rehabilitation counselors who serve school districts across Montana. Management and Disability Transitions Program will implement the model and materials statewide over the upcoming biennium.
- Management and Disability Transitions Program and the Veteran's Administration began a collaborative effort to effectively and proactively serve the growing community of Montana veterans in need of vocational rehabilitation services. We plan to serve those veterans who "fall between the cracks," thus strengthening Montana's commitment to those who served our country through military service.
- Vocational Rehabilitation initiated a pilot program in 2010 to examine the feasibility of developing a Rehabilitation Communication Specialist (RCS) position in each region. The RCS is an individual with fluent signing skills who has a comprehensive background working within the deaf community and culture. The RCS works with a vocational rehabilitation counselor to assist deaf/hard of hearing individuals to be successful in the community and work. The pilot project was started in Bozeman and may be extended statewide over the upcoming biennium.
- The Montana Telecommunications Access Program, which provides relay services for Montanans who are deaf/hard of hearing or with other disabilities that impair their use of telephone services, hopes to set aside funding to pay for video relay services. The federal government may soon require states to provide video relay services so that deaf/hard of hearing telephone users can use their native sign language to communicate via video technology.
- Independent Living Services, which are delivered primarily by a statewide network of four Centers for Independent Living, are stepping up their systems change efforts to include Montanans with disabilities in national, state, and local decision making. Their mantra, "Nothing about us without us," guides efforts to reframe disability as a natural and respectable human characteristic and to assure that Montanans with disabilities have control over their own lives and the services they use. For example, North Central Independent Living, the center headquartered in Great Falls, collaborated with local government planners to integrate elements of the Americans with Disabilities Act in city zoning.

So, how well are the Disabilities Transitions Programs staff doing for our Montanans with disabilities?

Below are just a few samples of the feedback that the DTP team has received from people with disabilities regarding the effectiveness of our programs and illustrating just how effective our investment is in our communities:

- "You are responsible for my sanity as without the amplified phone I would no doubt be medically depressed - I depend on my phone for business and social contact; it allows me to live a fuller life." M.C., Helena, MT.
- "Thank you... thank you... - all of you. The equipment that you delivered/shared to use with my mother and father is a great fit. You have simplified life for Mom and Dad (A.H. and E.H.) and as a positive spin-off simplified life for my wife and I as their issues sometimes rapidly become ours." G.H., Bozeman, MT.
- "I thought that I would write you a letter telling you about a very fine experience I had with an employee of Montana Telecommunications Access Program. The equipment specialist was helpful setting up the phone and explaining how to use it. By golly, I now have a phone with a print out screen so I can understand who is saying what. Thank you." W.S., Stevensville, MT.
- A few years ago, Tim Sheehan sent Montana Vocational Rehabilitation a check for \$1,000 to repay the state for services he received in 1934. Tim, a polio survivor, acknowledged that without Vocational Rehabilitation he would not have launched an adventuresome aviation career. His career started with being an aviation mechanic, then an airline mechanic instructor, then the US Army Air Corp and finally the Federal Aviation Administration. Tim stated, "I have quite a lot of gratitude for Vocational Rehabilitation because they are the people that launched my career in aviation. I can't thank the state of Montana enough for the help they have given me as someone affected by polio."
- "The Medicaid for Workers with Disabilities program means that Montanans with disabilities no longer have to fear the loss of their only access to health coverage simply because they want to work in order to try to improve their own lives. The program allows individuals with disabilities the opportunity to become tax paying citizens that they wouldn't otherwise have by allowing them to purchase Medicaid coverage to meet their unique healthcare needs that other health insurance policies don't cover and that they wouldn't be able to work without."

Our staff accomplishments and award recognition in serving people with disabilities.

The fact that several DTP staff have received various recognition, even nationally, shows that we have knowledgeable people who are efficient in their jobs through years of service, and are effective as leaders who represent Montanans with disabilities properly, as well as their interests.

- The executive director for the Montana Telecommunications Access Program was elected Chair of the National Association of State Relay Administrators, after stepping down as the Chair of the Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program Association.
- The Montana Association of Rehabilitation awarded one of our Great Falls VR counselors with the Counselor of the Year award for excellent client service.
- Governor Brian Schweitzer gave a Governor's Excellence Award to the Management and Disability Transitions Program Public Transportation Coordinator for his successes in improving collaborations among public transportation and disability services across Montana.

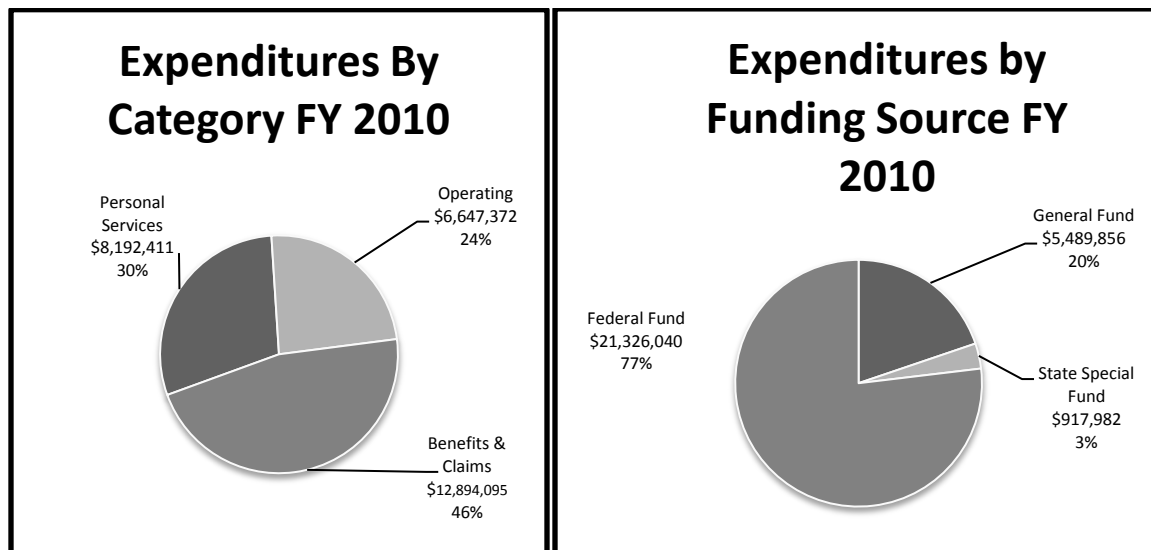
2013 BIENNIUM GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Department of Public Health and Human Services Management and Disability Transitions Program	
Goals and Objectives for the 2013 Biennium Submitted September 1, 2010	
Goal: To assist continuously Montanans with disabilities, including transitioning students, to achieve independence so that they can live, work, and fully participate in their communities.	
Objective	Measures
Assist Montanans with disabilities, including those students transitioning from school to work and/or post secondary education, into gainful employment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The objective is measured by successfully meeting Vocational Rehabilitation standards and indicators as developed by the federal Rehabilitation Services Administration.
Provide accurate and timely Social Security disability adjudications.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The objective is measured by successfully meeting the federal Social Security standards on accuracy rates and timeliness.
Improve the quality of life for Montanans with disabilities through education, innovation and technology by enhancing communication options.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The objective is measured by maintaining the current level of equipment distributed to individuals who are eligible for the Montana Telecommunications Access Program.

FUNDING AND FTE INFORMATION

Division Name	2010 Actual Expenditures	FY 2012 Request	FY 2013 Request
FTE	146.00	146.00	146.00
Personal Services	8,192,411	8,081,193	8,077,424
Operating	6,647,372	5,176,523	5,373,226
Equipment	0	0	0
Grants	0	0	0
Benefits & Claims	12,894,095	12,233,913	12,284,420
Debt Services	0	0	0
Total Request	27,733,878	25,491,629	25,735,070
General Fund	5,489,856	5,370,669	5,444,824
State Special Fund	917,982	1,603,960	1,604,760
Federal Fund	21,326,040	18,517,000	18,685,486
Total Request	27,733,878	25,491,629	25,735,070

THE FOLLOWING FIGURES PROVIDE FUNDING AND EXPENDITURE INFORMATION FOR
FY 2010 FOR MANAGEMENT AND DISABILITIES TRANSITIONS PROGRAM



DECISION PACKAGES (SEE LFD BUDGET ANALYSIS, PAGES B-51 – B-54)

NP 1103 – MTAP New Technologies

- This decision package requests \$1.55 million state special revenue authority for the 2013 biennium.
- The Montana Telecommunications Access Program (MTAP) predicts a federal mandate will require states to pay for new technologies. It is anticipated the federal mandate will come with advance notice of at least 18 months.
- LFD Budget Analysis page **B-52**

Fiscal Year	General Fund	State Special	Federal Funds	Total Request
FY 2012	\$0	\$775,000	\$0	\$775,000
FY 2013	\$0	\$775,000	\$0	\$775,000
Biennium Total	\$0	\$1,550,000	\$0	\$1,550,000

NP 1104 – Disability Determination Federal Fund Adjustment

- This decision package requests an increase of \$984,849 in federal fund authority for the 2013 biennium.
- This request will allow the Disability Determination Service program to enhance client travel, zero-based personal services, and medical consultation. This request will also allow the program to process their workload in an electronic environment to meet the U.S. Social Security Administration's required productivity levels.
- LFD Budget Analysis page **B-54**.

Fiscal Year	General Fund	State Special	Federal Funds	Total Request
FY 2012	\$0	\$0	\$392,940	\$392,940
FY 2013	\$0	\$0	\$591,909	\$591,909
Biennium Total	\$0	\$0	\$984,849	\$984,849

NP 55401 – 4% Personal Service General Fund Reduction

- This decision package permanently reduces personal services in the amount of \$65,972 for each year of the biennium in general funds.
- A cost savings to general fund will be realized by the restructure of certain personal services from a previously 100% general fund structure into a 78.7% federal, 21.3% general fund structure. No positions will be eliminated to accomplish this general fund reduction.
- LFD Budget Analysis page **B-54**.

Fiscal Year	General Fund	State Special	Federal Funds	Total Request
FY 2012	(\$65,972)	\$0	\$65,972	\$0
FY 2013	(\$65,972)	\$0	\$65,972	\$0
Biennium Total	(\$131,944)	\$0	\$131,944	\$0

PL 1001 – Tuition Increase

- This decision package provides a general fund increase of \$39,901 in FY 2012 and \$80,202 in FY 2013 for a 1% increase each year to fund a portion of the increase tuition costs for Vocational Rehabilitation benefits.
- This current level adjustment in the base will allow VR to continue purchasing educational services for clients enrolled in colleges or university programs. Without the increase, VR will be limited in services to clients and this would result in a lengthening of the time it will take for them to enter employment or hinder their options of choices in gaining employment.
- LFD Budget Analysis page **B-52**.

Fiscal Year	General Fund	State Special	Federal Funds	Total Request
FY 2012	\$39,901	\$0	\$0	\$39,901
FY 2013	\$80,202	\$0	\$0	\$80,202
Biennium Total	\$120,103	\$0	\$0	\$120,103

PL 1002 – Non DofA Rent Adjustment

- This decision package requests an increase of \$137,015 in general fund and a reduction of \$9,652 of state special revenue funds for the 2013 biennium.
- The Management and Disability Transitions Program is requesting funding for rent increases for offices located in non state-owned buildings. This increase supports the MTAP and Vocational Rehabilitation programs, and is built into the lease agreements for field offices. Reductions due to lease negotiations and increases for leases that could not be reduced were factored into this calculation.
- LFD Budget Analysis page **B-52**.

Fiscal Year	General Fund	State Special	Federal Funds	Total Request
FY 2012	\$63,593	(\$5,228)	\$0	\$58,365
FY 2013	\$73,422	(\$4,374)	\$0	\$69,048
Biennium Total	\$137,015	(\$9,602)	\$0	\$127,413

PL 55140 – 17-7-140 Optimize In-Service and Independent Living Older Blind Funding

- This decision package reduces the general fund base budget by \$43,200 and increases federal fund by the same amount each year of the biennium.
- This amount annualizes and makes permanent the 17-7-140, MCA 5% general fund budget reduction put into place in the 2011 biennium. Costs will be reduced in training and education due to using WebEx and increasing federal participation. There will be additional reductions in personal service costs associated with hands on benefits for individuals in the older blind program by capping the grant.
- This decision package can be found in the Executive Budget, Section B-Public Health and Human Services, on page **B-52**.

Fiscal Year	General Fund	State Special	Federal Funds	Total Request
FY 2012	(\$43,200)	\$0	\$43,200	\$0
FY 2013	(\$43,200)	\$0	\$43,200	\$0
Biennium Total	(\$86,400)	\$0	\$86,400	\$0

LEGISLATION

Management and Disability Transitions Program has no pending or requested legislation.